



ESTABLISHED IN 1863

The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Volume 145, No. 9

May 2009

Calendar

18 MAY, Society
Monthly Meeting
– Program: Robert
Louis Stevenson,
presenter Dorothy
Mackay-Collins

SAT/SUN, 16/17
Livermore Scottish
Games & Celtic
Fair, Robertson
Park



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The Scots are among the most traveled folks on the planet.

All corners of the globe have seen and heard, and in most cases benefited from their presence. Clan societies, pipe bands and even Scottish military units have been formed from Australia and South Africa, to Canada and even India. This month's Scottish military article is on a short lived, but rather interesting regiment in the Auxiliary Force, India: the Calcutta Scottish.



Photo above shows members of the Calcutta Scottish with members of the Calcutta Light Horse, circa 1916.

The Calcutta Scottish

The Calcutta Scottish was a regiment of volunteers of Scottish descent raised in 1914 as an infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. The regiment formed part of the army reserves known as the Auxiliary Force, India (AFI).

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A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the
3rd Monday of the month, at
7:30 PM. Light refreshments
served after the meeting.

Officers of the Society

Fred Rutledge, President
Gene McCracken, First VP
John Allison, Second VP
Russ Wallace, Treasurer
Tom Kasinger, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
James Beatty, Chaplain
Bruce McCubbrey, Bard
Ozzie Reid, Piper
Trustees—
Bruce McMillan, Chairman
Tom MacLaughlin,
John McCorkindale
Bruce Reeves
Board of Relief,
James Beatty
Board of Student Assistance—
Robert Logan,
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Loren Obley



St. Andrew's Society

Dear St. Andrew's of San Francisco Members and Friends:

John Allison gave a great chat on the Royal Regiment of Scotland and handed out some super booklets on the subject at the April meeting. He then produced a very nice bit of nosh for those 25 assembled. Ozzie piped some lively hornpipes to start the evening off.



As mentioned last month, it is Games time. The Woodland Games were held on April 28/29 and Kristian Mullins, John Casey and I took part in the Scottish Soldier display. Others on the grounds were – Bill Blair and Gene McCracken at their respective clan tents.

The Livermore Games are held on 19/20 May. The Campbell and Loch Lomond Games are postponed until next year for financial reasons. Our Society sets up tents and displays at two of the annual gatherings: the Dunsmuir Games in July and the Caledonian Club Games in September. Volunteers are always sought to help set up, staff and take down the tents.

Kudos to Ozzie Reid and his fantastic committee for another fine Dan Reid Memorial Challenge Recital (DRM) . The 18th in fact. Six past-presidents on hand: Bruce McCubbrey, Don Cameron, Bill Blair, Tom McLaughlin, Bruce Reeves and Aaron Buchanan. The Masters' Recital brought five competitors from Scotland and Canada. I had the privilege of presenting the St. Andrew's Officer's Sword trophy to Stuart Liddell for his outstanding March, Strathspey and Reel Recital. Bruce McCubbrey presented Mr. Liddell with the Dr. Dan Reid Memorial Challenge Recital Bagpipe Banner for his overall win.

The top three winners, Stuart Liddell (Inverary, Scotland), Iain Spiers (Edinburgh, Scotland) and Andrew Hayes (Nepeon, Canada) had all been Cameron Gillies Recitalist winners at the DRM in years past.

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2009 Livermore Scottish Games and Celtic Celebration.

We've got the events and entertainment to make this year the best celebration yet!

Open on May 16 and 17th, 2009:

Saturday 11am - 8pm

Living History and Clans will close at 6pm

Ceilidh from 6-8pm

Sunday 11am - 6pm

MAY

MON, 18 MAY, Society Monthly Meeting – Program: Robert Louis

Stevenson, presenter Dorothy Mackay-Collins

SAT/SUN, 16/17 Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Fair, Robertson Park

JUNE

Campbell Highland Games, www.campbellgames.com (postponed to 2010)

SAT, 6 JUN, St. Andrew's Society of Modesto, 28th Annual Highland Games

and Gathering of the Clans, Tuolumne River Regional Park.

MON, 15 JUN, Society Monthly Meeting – Program: Wearing & Caring for Highland Dress, presenter Elsie Scott Stuehmeyer.

JULY

SAT/SUN, 11/12 JUL, 35th Annual Dunsmuir Scottish Games, Oakland,

No Society Monthly Meeting

AUGUST

SAT/SUN, 1 / 2 AUG, Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, Toro Park

www.montereygames.com

SAT, 8 AUG, Joint (clubs) Ceilidh, Encinal Yacht Club Alameda

No Society Monthly Meeting

The Values and Standards of the British Army

As a soldier of The Royal Regiment of Scotland you will be expected to work to the values and standards of the British Army:

Selfless Commitment - Personal commitment is the foundation of military service. You must be prepared to serve whenever and wherever you are required, and to do your best at all times. This means you put the needs of the mission, and of your team, ahead of your own interests.

Courage - Courage creates the strength on which fighting spirit depends. You must have the physical courage to carry on with your task regardless of danger and discomfort, and the moral courage always to do what you know is right.

Discipline - The Army must be a disciplined force if it is to be effective. You must therefore obey all lawful orders that you are given. The best form of discipline which the Army expects from you is self discipline. Only that will earn you the respect and trust of your comrades, and equip you to cope with the difficult, individual decisions you will have to make during your service. This ap-

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John McDonald of the Pasadena Scottish Pipes and Drums is seeking support for his documentary "On the Day" the story of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band. I will bring some information to the next meeting for anyone interested.

Looks like we may have tenants in the firehouse apartment soon. The trustees will update us at the next meeting.

Our Student Assistance Board will be presenting the names of those students we wish to give financial assistance to. The By-Laws state that this must be done. In that way, the members know we are going to discuss finances. For the first time in 15 years, we do not have any applications for assistance, One would think with the current economy, we would have many, but not so! There frequently is a rush, as we approach the deadline, so we will see. There is a potential candidate currently at the University of Edinburgh. Last year we gave her \$5,000. Bob Logan has been in touch with her and she has just been accepted to apply for her PhD. She is going to send an application to the board.

Dorothy Mackay-Collins, from the Robert Louis Stevenson museum in St. Helena, will be our May presenter. I believe John and Dorothy are looking to put a filed trip together to the museum over the summer. John is also trying to get an idea of the numbers of participants for the September Members' Dinner. Please be sure to put your name and any guest's name on his sign-up sheet.

There are many more treats in store, so keep an eye on the newsletter and our website for up-to-date information. I also encourage members to keep us posted of any email address changes. The cost of postage is going up and we are trying to be good caretakers of the society's assets. It is far more economical to publish a full-color newsletter in the "E-world" than in the actual. Again, those who do not have email can get a free address using "hotmail" and perhaps visiting their local library to get started!

Please mark your calendars! Looking ahead: the Joint Ceilidh is Saturday 8 August, in Alameda, the St. Andrew's Banquet and Ball

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Their dress uniform included Hunting Stewart tartan kilts, and scarlet jackets.

An attempt was made to raise 2 kilted companies of "Calcutta Scottish" within the Calcutta Rifles, but without success. This may account for the date of the raising of the Regiment as being 1 August 1911 in Major Donovan Jackson's work "India's Army". The other date being 1 August 1914, when the Calcutta Scottish Volunteers were formed as part of the Indian Volunteer Force. King's and Regimental Colors (flags) were awarded after that date.

During the First World War the Regiment probably deployed only as individual reinforcements. Some officers are known to have gone to East Africa, but there is no record of deployment of the unit as a whole. There is a reference to Calcutta Volunteer Machine Guns armed with Maxim guns which may have included officers and men from the Calcutta Scottish having been on active service during the war. On 1 April 1917, the regiment was redesignated as the 44th Calcutta Scottish. In 1919, the 44th was called out for over 2 months to deal with "communal riots".

Postwar

On 1 October 1920, the regiment was redesignated The Calcutta Scottish (Army Auxiliary Force, India) and in 1921 included a Light Motor Patrol armed with Maxim guns (later Vickers, then Lewis, then Brens) but mounted in private cars.

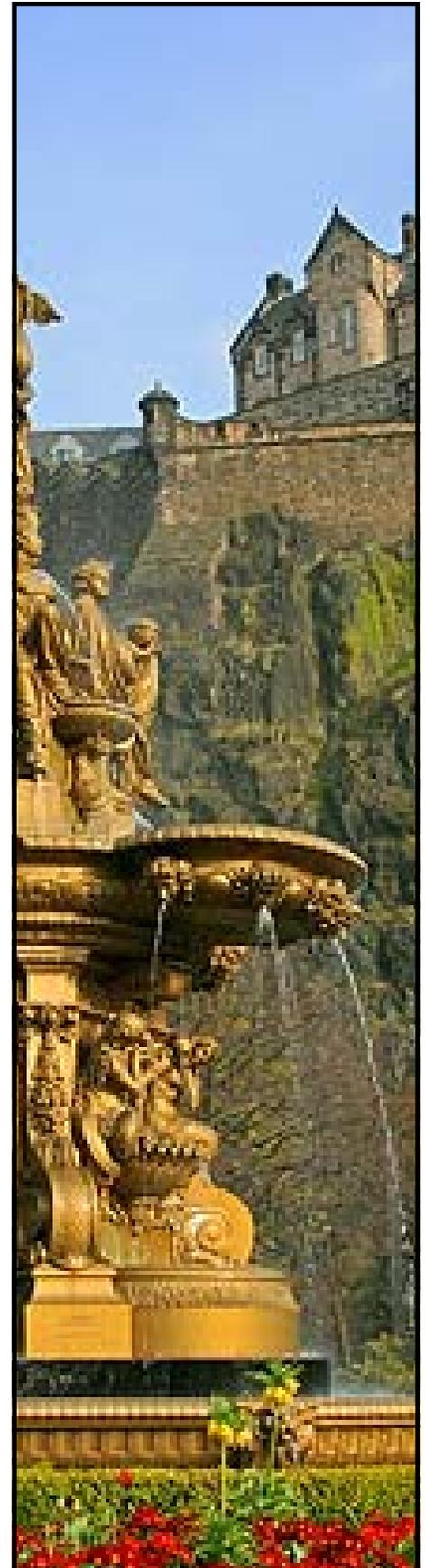
In 1921 the Prince of Wales visited the Far East in HMS Renown and on a visit to the city on 24 December inspected the Calcutta Scottish (photo



INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR OF CALCUTTA SCOTTISH AT HOWRAH STATION, CALCUTTA, 1922

above). In 1926 the unit was again called out for over 2 months,

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is on Saturday, 28 November at the Marines' Memorial and the Robert Burns Supper is scheduled for Saturday, 23 January 2010 at the Family. A reminder: no Society meetings in July and August.

Well, that's it from me this month. Enjoy the newsletter articles and see you at the next meeting – Monday, 20 May!

Fred Rutledge

President,

BENEVOLENT HEARTS KEEP THEM YOUNG

Editor The Chronicle—Sir: At a recent meeting of the oldest Scottish society in San Francisco some rather unusual events were recorded. First the secretary, George St. J. Bremner, celebrated his fiftieth year of membership. Secondly four members whose combined ages totaled over 320 years sang solos. I have heard many songs sung by much younger men who did not make the grade as well as these grand old men. Our beloved John McLaren surprised many by the tuneful rendering of a real old-time song by his wit when he made the presentation to his junior in years. Perhaps the climate has something to do with the long life of these men. I find on investigation that this Scottish society, which was established here in 1863, has quite an imposing list of members who can claim 80 years and better. Is it possible that we have any other societies in San Francisco which can make such a showing? Perhaps the nature of the society, benevolent, is the answer.

J. G. SCOTT.

San Francisco, March 26, 1930.

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reason unknown, but probably due to riots again. The unit was inspected once more by the Prince of Wales in 1928.

In 1930 the unit was called out as Aid to the Civil Power for over 2 months in small detachments, at least 18 times.

Second World War

Individual members went off to serve on active duty. The remaining members were kept in Calcutta to continue working jobs deemed necessary for the war effort. British Military Intelligence had a hunch that German ships interned in the neutral Portuguese possession of Goa, a port on the west side of India, were sending out messages on Allied shipping traffic. An unofficial "commando unit" was requisited for **Operation CREEK**, a special operation against the Axis ships in 1943. The lead unit was the Calcutta Light Horse (15 members), but four members of the Calcutta Scottish also took part in the raid. The party sailed a barge into Goa harbor and caused the sinking of three German merchantmen: Ehrenfels, Drachenfels and the Braunfels, and one Italian ship – Anfora. The story of this "commando raid" was suppressed for reasons of security well after the war.

Operation CREEK was later described in the book "The Boarding Party" by James Leasor.. This so called "factional" account, in which the Calcutta Light Horse, reinforced by some members of the Calcutta Scottish raided the neutral port of Marmagoa on 9 March 1943. In the port, the "Ehrenfels" had been providing information to 3 German U-boats, on the movement of ships in the Indian Ocean. As result, some 250,000 tons of British shipping had been sunk over a period of 45 days. After a journey from Calcutta, via Bombay, in the hopper barge "Phoebe" the Ehrenfels was boarded and destroyed along with 2 other German ships, and one Italian vessel. The film 'The Sea Wolves', released in June 1981, was based on the book and starred Gregory Peck, Roger Moore, Patrick MacNee, David Niven and Trevor Howard. It was actually filmed in Goa. It is a fun film to see after a curry meal! In 1946 the regiment was reorganized to consist of an HQ, 2 companies and 4 Motor platoons, and disbanded in August 1947 following India's independence.

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plies whether on operations or not.

Integrity - Integrity involves honesty, sincerity, reliability and unselfishness. It is an essential requirement of both leadership and comradeship. Unless you maintain your integrity, others will not trust you and teamwork will suffer. Integrity sometimes requires you to show moral courage, because your decisions may not always be popular. But it will always earn you respect.

Loyalty - The Nation and the Army rely on your commitment and support. You must therefore be loyal to your commanders, your comrades and your duty. If you are not, you will be letting others down.

Respect for Others - As a soldier you have the exceptional responsibility of bearing arms, and when necessary of using controlled lethal force. In addition, you will sometimes have to live and work under extremely difficult conditions. In such circumstances, it is particularly important that you show the greatest respect, tolerance and compassion for others because comradeship and leadership depend on it.

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Uniform

The jacket was scarlet with white facings, but by 1946 the jacket changed to yellow facings. The Regiment wore Hunting Stewart tartan. Kilts were rarely worn during WW2.

The **Glengarry** (on left): 1914-20: Diced Green and white. By 1946: Royal blue with same color ribbons (Argyle). Sun helmets were worn most of the time. Also red and black check/diced glens were worn.



The hose tops were green and white, but by 1946 they became tartan with red flashes. Also red and black check/diced.

The cap badge (seen in Glengarry photo) was the

Cross of St Andrew with the coat of arms of Calcutta superimposed, in the upper angle of the cross a crown. The Regimental Motto: Per Adua Stabilis Esto (Be firm through difficulties) was included. The sporrans were white with six black tassels.

The King's and Regimental Colors and the Regimental Silver were passed along to the London Scottish on disbandment. In 1953 they were sent to the United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle. They are now on display in the National War Museum of Scotland.

The Regimental Journal: "Calcutta Scottish Regimental Chronicle" (see below)

Next month the Scots Guards!



Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Meeting Agenda

18 May 2009

Our mission is to aid financially, and otherwise, any worthy Scot, or any member of the family of any worthy Scot who is deserving of help, and any person of Scottish origin or descent, who is in financial distress; to promote good will and harmony among people of Scottish birth or ancestry; to improve the social, educational and cultural life of persons of Scottish birth or ancestry; to preserve the practice and appreciation of traditional Scottish values and culture; and to acquire funds and property with which to carry out the objects and purposes hereinabove set forth.

Call to Order:

- Introduction of Guests
- New Members First Reading
- New Members Second Reading/Vote
- Approval of Minutes (from previous month)
- Member Comments
- President's Report – Fred Rutledge
- 1st Vice-President's Report – Gene McCracken
- 2nd Vice-President's Report – John Allison
- Treasurer's Report – Russ Wallace
- Board Member Reports:
 - Trustees – Bruce McMillan
 - Foundation – Tom McLaughlin (Dan Reid Memorial update)
 - Board of Relief – James Beatty – Henry Douglas update
 - Board of Student Assistance – Robert Logan - Scholarships
 - Old Business –
 - New Business / Upcoming Events (see reverse)
 - For the Good of the Order
 - Next Meeting Monday, 20 June, and Adjourn Business Meeting
 - Evening Program: "Robert Louis Stevenson" – Dorothy MacKay-Collins

2009

Monthly Program Calendar

May:

Robert Louis Stevenson. Presented By Dorothy Mackay-Collins.

June:

Wearing of & Caring for Highland Dress. Presented By Elsie Scott Stuehmeyer.

July:

No meeting

August:

No meeting.

September:

Members' Dinner, 7pm drinks, socialize, piped to dinner 7:30pm, Smoked Trout, BBQ Ribs, Lemon Meringue Pie, Coffee, Shortbread.

October:

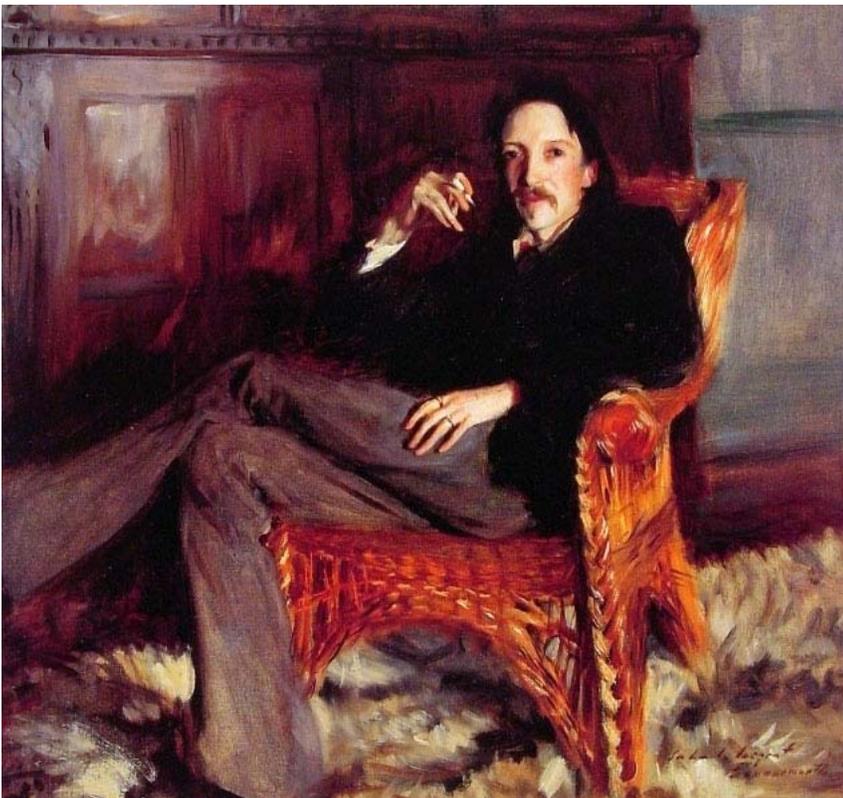
Making Haggis. Presented by Alex Henderson. We will pipe in a haggis, address it and have it for supper with clapsot..

November:

British Consulate, San Francisco. Presented by Consul General Julian Evans and Deputy Mary Gilbert.

December:

John Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy. Presented by Retired Admiral Judd Scott.



Robert Louis Stevenson. is the topic of this month's meeting program. Presented By Dorothy Mackay-Collins